

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/05/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4 (g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons:

We are free as Americans to believe in marriage between a man and a woman, and that marriage is only valid between a man and a woman. Though the Supreme Court has declared same sex marriage legal, we as Americans cannot be forced to adopt this as our creed, as we are free to believe and to act according to our religious beliefs, as per the first amendment to our constitution which states Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech,...

Attorneys in Montana would be prohibited by this proposed rule of conduct to act according to their faith. Under this rule of conduct, if a lawyer says anything that might be deemed "discriminatory" on the basis of "sexual orientation" or "gender identity," that lawyer could be disbarred -- lose his/her license to practice law. That would certainly include the attorney's speaking out on his or her belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. I see a distinct violation of free speech here, as well as an attempt by the court to force a religious belief (the secular view that same sex marriage is the same as a marriage between a man and a woman) on attorneys in Montana. It is for these reasons that I urge you to reject adopting this rule.

Respectfully,



Cynthia Marble

7 Mountain View Rd.

Red Lodge, MT 59068

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STATE OF MONTANA